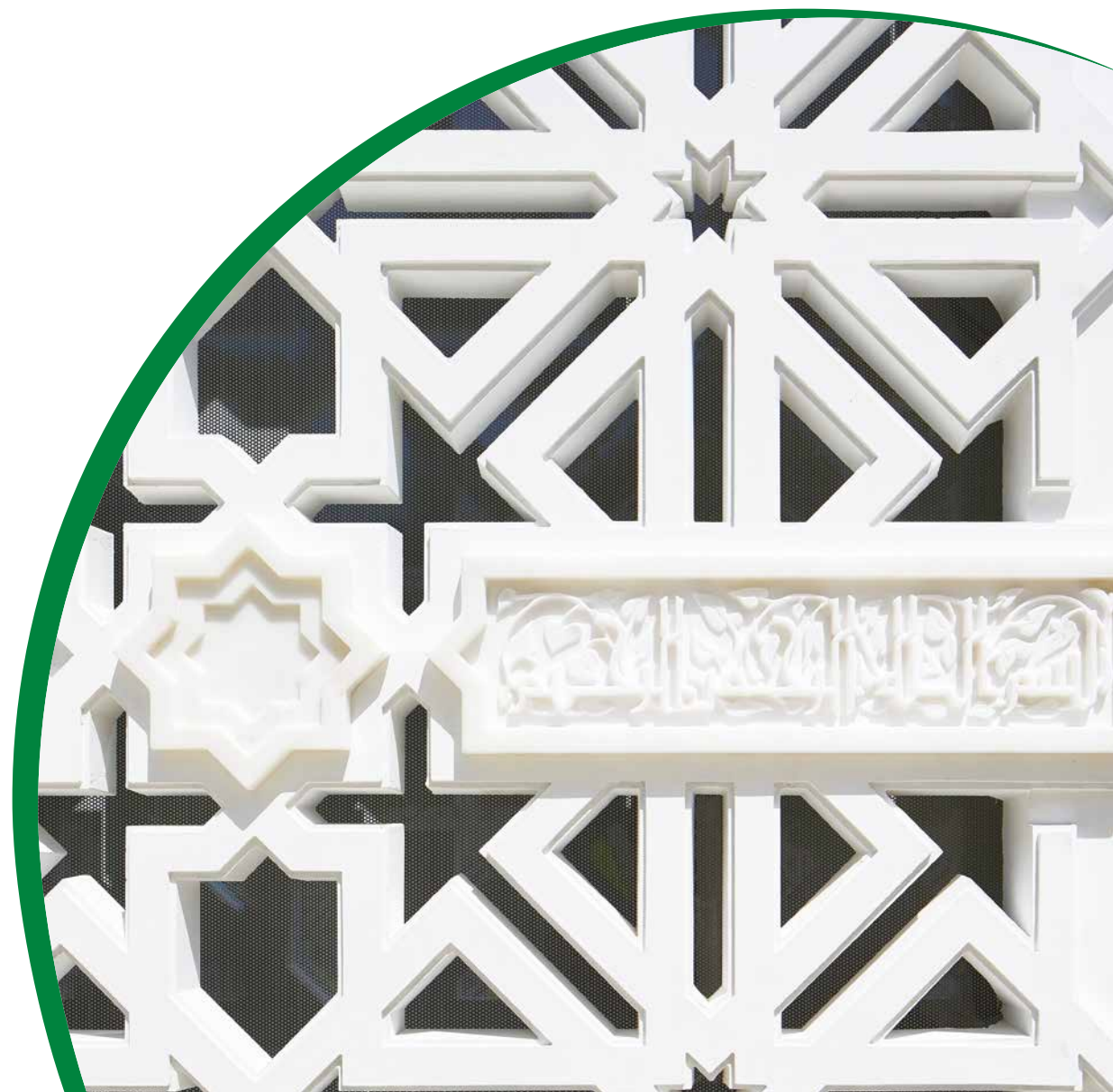


**THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY**

(International) in the United Kingdom

Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations

# 2020 Prospectus



[www.aku.edu/ismc](http://www.aku.edu/ismc)



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# Welcome



AKU-ISMC is unique. As part of the international Aga Khan University, which is itself part of the Aga Khan Development Network, we bridge Europe and the Global South. AKU-ISMC was intentionally located in London to serve as a hub for intellectual exchange and development for scholars from around the world. Our ambitious mission requires everyone in the AKU-ISMC community to think creatively and cooperatively about how to address the complex challenges facing the world both now and in the future.

Our Master of Arts in Muslim Cultures builds on the intellectual foundations of AKU-ISMC research. This degree provides students with an opportunity to work with experts in the humanities and social sciences to develop your skills and knowledge, both personally and professionally. Pursuing a graduate degree is a significant commitment that will transform you and give you the tools to impact the world in ways that you probably can't imagine when you begin.

Here at AKU-ISMC we carry out excellent research on contemporary and historical aspects of Muslim societies. Every member of our teaching team is research active and brings that research into their interactions with students. We aim to bring our students in as genuine members of our research community who contribute the intellectual life blood of the Institute rather than just being recipients of learning.

We are committed to creating a welcoming and productive environment for everyone in AKU-ISMC, including our students. We have a prize-winning campus building and student accommodation with dedicated study space, a library and access to the nearby British Library. Finally, our tight-knit student community offers an enriching opportunity to grow and develop both intellectually and personally.

I look forward to welcoming you in person.

## **Professor Leif Stenberg**

Director,  
Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations





I am always excited to talk about the excellent work that we do in AKU-ISMC. As both a research institute and a great post-graduate training centre, we aim high and we work hard to deliver. The over-arching mission of AKU-ISMC and its parent institution, the Aga Khan Development Network, is not just for decoration—we genuinely work towards creating a better world for ourselves and our children. AKU-ISMC's part of that mission is addressed both through the research that we carry out and through the students that we train.

We push our students to develop and grow as scholars and as people. Alongside developing invaluable research skills, honing critical thinking and argumentation, we also strive to challenge our students to think critically about the moral and ethical implications of what they do in the world. This is not just any university graduate programme—this is a graduate programme with a profound goal to enable future leaders to take the skills and knowledge that they develop throughout their studies and apply them to the most pressing challenges in the world. Our students may go on to become academics, politicians, development specialists, business people or a host of other careers, but they all walk away understanding that privilege comes with responsibility. Crucially, they understand that the opportunity to work and study at a University like AKU, that draws on expertise from around the world, confers both privilege and responsibility that can enable positive change for the future. I invite you to explore the AKU-ISMC and to learn more about the unique opportunity of embarking on our MA in Muslim Cultures.

### Professor Stephen Lyon

Head of Educational Programmes,  
Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations

# About us

## About ISMC

ISMC was founded in 2002, seeking to occupy a vacant space in the discourse on the Muslim world by promoting scholarship that opens new perspectives on Muslim societies. We consider key issues such as tradition and modernity, religion and the state, pluralism and unity, and the nature of community in an era of global connection and change.

Our mandate is to address fundamental challenges of the human condition as they are expressed across the diverse societies of the Muslim world and its diasporas.

London offers the ideal location for the Institute, with its international flavour; excellent cultural scene, both historic and contemporary; thriving arts and academic communities; and as a city in which freedom of thought and expression are encouraged.

## Our Goals

- To study systems of moral and ethical thought, structures of governance and public life, and artistic and creative expressions in all forms.
- To create opportunities for interaction among academics and other professionals so as to deepen understanding of pressing issues of public life affecting Muslim societies.

## About the Aga Khan University

Established in 1983, the Aga Khan University (AKU) is a unique hybrid: an institution of academic excellence that is also an agent for social development. The University has campuses and programmes in South Asia, Europe and Africa.

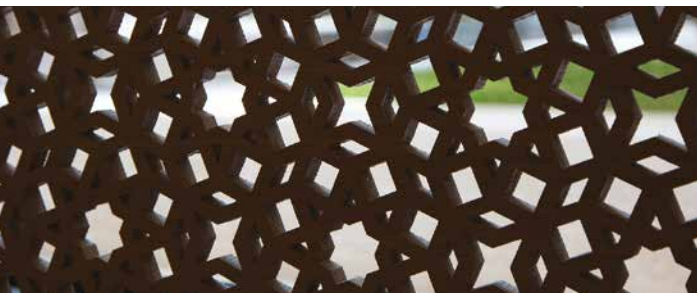
The University operates on the core principles of impact, quality, relevance and access, and prepares its students to lead change in their societies and to thrive in the global economy. Through its rigorous admissions policy and our needs-sensitive financial assistance programmes, the University offers the most promising leaders and thinkers of tomorrow the opportunity to serve, and the skills to help communities solve their most pressing challenges.

The Aga Khan University in London is a member of the Knowledge Quarter, which is a partnership of some 90 – and growing – academic, cultural, research, scientific and media organisations. These organisations are actively engaged in the advancement and dissemination of knowledge and are within a one-mile radius of King's Cross. They include the University of London, Google, The Crick Institute and *The Guardian*.





# Ten reasons to choose ISMC



**1** A unique three-semester degree during which you will be given an opportunity to learn a language and gain a deep understanding of Muslim cultures.

Exclusive accommodation within a two-minute walk from campus.

**2**



Study in the purpose-built Aga Khan Centre incorporating a collection of Islamic gardens, courtyards and terraces.

**4**



**5** Spend time in one of the world's most diverse cities. See the sights and indulge in London's many cultural experiences and insights.



**3** Explore architecture, literature, religion, history, art, politics, law and more in Muslim contexts with our specialist academics.



The Aga Khan Library is a dedicated space over two floors, opening out onto the Terrace of Learning.

**6**



**7** The option to spend a month abroad on a language immersion course in an Arabic or Persian-speaking country.



Enjoy a vibrant social life, with organised trips in the UK and local activities.

**8**

**9** Attend the many events organised by ISMC as well as surrounding universities including SOAS, Birkbeck and UCL.



**10** Follow in the footsteps of our alumni into PhD study or career opportunities around the world.



“

I chose this programme because it's unique. You don't find a programme like this anywhere else in the world. It teaches you aspects of religious studies, aspects of development, aspects of cultural studies. And what they do together is to change the way that you think and the way you interact and the way you see and perceive things round you.

”

**Kareem Shalwani, AKU student**



“

All of my expectations were met when I came here. Classes are very interesting, they are stimulating and thought-provoking. At the same time, they are very challenging.

”

**Nurila Ydrys, student**



The three-semester degree programme at ISMC provides you with expert insight and deep understanding of Muslim cultures and civilisations, both in the historical and contemporary worlds. Our programme gives you the skills to engage critically, in original and creative ways, with the challenges faced by Muslim societies. To help ensure that you are fulfilling the objectives of this course, our teaching is student-centred and our academics, who are leaders in their fields, seek to enhance your learning through a multi-faceted approach that applies a framework of world cultures, humanities and social sciences to the study of Muslim contexts.



# MA in Muslim Cultures



## Teaching and Learning

At ISMC, you will cover an extensive curriculum ensuring that you leave us with an excellent knowledge of Muslim cultures and civilisations. Our faculty are engaged in world-leading research and you will have the opportunity to benefit from their extensive knowledge of their subjects. Within the disciplines of social sciences and humanities, you will be introduced to general theories and concepts. You will also study a number of subjects including development studies, economics, political science, art, architecture, history, literature, comparative religion and law within Muslim contexts.

Subjects covered include research methodology, development challenges in a Muslim context as well as law and governance. Our faculty take advantage of the enormous range of opportunities on offer in London to stretch and challenge our students, and you are strongly encouraged to attend lectures, discussions and performances which will enhance your learning and understanding.

ISMC also attracts speakers from around the world, including international academics, authors, journalists and other experts, and students are encouraged to attend evening and lunchtime lectures and seminars organised by the Institute.

## Structure

The MA in Muslim Cultures is a three-semester programme that offers a variety of elements: core and elective courses; as well as fieldwork opportunities that might take place in collaboration with our Aga Khan Development Network, which can contribute to your dissertation.

Our courses are grouped into five components:

### 1. Introduction to the Humanities and Social Sciences

These courses address historiography, epistemology, anthropology, sociology, cultural studies and philosophy of language. You will also use tools of the social sciences and humanities to study Muslim cultures, particularly on issues relevant to past and present Muslim cultures, in an independent, critical and creative manner.

### 2. Muslim Heritages as Part of World Cultures

Muslim heritages are an integral part of world cultures and their histories. You will study selected aspects of world cultures that are intrinsically related to the formation of Muslim religious thought and practices, Muslim scholarship and Muslim political discourses and experiences.

### 3. Contemporary Muslim Contexts

The selection of courses aims to encourage students to explore the domains of social, cultural, political and economic studies.

### 4. Methodologies

Methodology courses provide you with important research skills in order that you may understand and learn methods of analysing texts, written or otherwise (i.e. painting, jewellery, artefacts, architecture, music, etc.), producing and interpreting empirical data as well as evaluating and choosing between alternative academic approaches.

## MA in Muslim Cultures

### Core Courses

#### Semester 1

- Muslim Societies in a Changing World
- Research Methods in the Social Sciences and Humanities I
- Arabic or Persian

#### Semester 2

- Research Methods in the Social Sciences and Humanities II
- Arabic or Persian

#### Semester 3

- Thesis

### Elective Courses

- Late Antiquity
- Gender and Sexuality in the Middle East
- Religion Law and Society in Muslim Contexts
- Development Challenges in Muslim Contexts
- Paths in Sufism
- Islam and Creativity
- Trends in Modern & Contemporary Literature
- Authority and Legitimacy in Islamic History
- Art and Architecture in Muslim Cultures
- Religion Politics and the State in the Middle East
- Modern Muslim Mobility

Students take a total of 24 credits of coursework + 6 credits of thesis.

**Semester 1:** 9 credits core courses + 3 credits from the elective course list

**Semester 2:** 6 credits core courses + 6 credits from the elective course list

Coursework is composed of 15 core credits + 9 elective credits + 6 credits of thesis.

## Language Programme

During the summer after completion of the first two semesters, you have the option to travel to a country relevant to your language studies to undertake a three to four-week intensive language course and complete a language-based assignment. This feature of our MA in Muslim Cultures exposes you to cultures, communities and ways of life different from those to which you are accustomed. This option provides the opportunity to experience language in its social and lived dimensions while furthering your understanding of diversity and pluralism.

## Assessment

In general, assessment is based on presentations, written assignments and examinations, which you undertake during the first two semesters. Passing the thesis is a prerequisite for graduation from the MA programme. You will also be provided with feedback on your progress by your faculty advisor.

## IT Facilities

The Aga Khan Centre is equipped with excellent IT facilities. Most teaching rooms have interactive whiteboards, projectors and drop screens.

## Thesis and Fieldwork

In the third semester, you will prepare a 20,000 word thesis on a theme of your choice. The thesis is worth 6 credits and you must achieve a pass mark in order to graduate.

You may undertake an optional field project in a location relevant to your subject matter.

Theses are marked by two internal markers and moderated by an external examiner.

You will be assigned a thesis supervisor. Faculty support and input is always available to develop ideas for the research you are conducting.





# Meet the Faculty



**Sevgi Adak**  
Assistant Professor

Specialising in women and gender in modern Turkey; women's history and contemporary feminisms in the Middle East; Turkish politics; history of modern Turkey; politics of secularism in Turkey; state–society relations in the Middle East.



**Sanaa Alimia**  
Assistant Professor

Specialising in migration in modern South Asia, surveillance, governance and population control in the modern Muslim world.



**Sarah Bowen Savant**  
Professor

Specialising in early Islam; the study of religion; historiography; late antique Iran and Iraq; prophetic biography.



**Walid Ghali**  
Head Librarian and Assistant Professor

Specialising in Islamic manuscripts tradition and codicology; teaching introduction to sufism; Islamic poetry; the Quran in Muslim life.



**Stephen Lyon**  
Head of Educational Programmes and Professor

Specialising in political anthropology; Pakistan and Pakistani diaspora; computational methods; conflict; kinship.



**Jonas Otterbeck**  
Professor

Specialising in Islamic studies; Egypt; music; migration; youth culture.



**Gianluca Parolin**  
Associate Professor

Specialising in comparative law; regional governance and constitutional arrangements; citizenship in the Arab world, maslahah and maqasid al-shari'ah, fiqh al-aqalliyat.



**Stéphane Pradines**  
Professor

Specialising in Islamic art and archaeology; Swahili coast and archaeology in Sub-Saharan Africa; Egypt and urban archaeology in Cairo; Muslim fortifications.



**Leif Stenberg**  
Director and Professor

Specialising in Islam and modern science; various aspects of contemporary Sufism; Muslims in Europe; Islamic movements; questions concerning theory and method in the study of Islam.



**Jeff Tan**  
Associate Professor

Specialising in development studies; Malaysian political economy; privatisation, entrepreneurship and innovation; late industrialisation; developmental state theories; governance and corruption.



**Farouk Topan**  
Associate Professor

Specialising in Swahili literature; Islam in African literature; African poetry; identity in East Africa.



**Philip Wood**  
Professor

Specialising in Christian Orient; late antiquity; Syriac; hagiography and historiography; ethnogenesis and communalism; history of the caliphate; diaspora; migration; religious minorities in modern Syria and Iraq.

## Language Teachers

Abdul Jalil Muhammad  
Luay Mohammed  
Wael Odeh  
Maryam Rezaee

## Research

AKU-ISMC is a research-driven and non-denominational liberal arts academic institution producing internationally recognised research, education and outreach founded on a scholarly and plural understanding of Islam and Muslim cultures.

Our aim is to present a non-dogmatic perspective by employing and contributing to the development of new methods and theories in the study of Islam and Muslim cultures. At AKU-ISMC, we ask critical questions regarding the production of Islam rather than discussing what Islam is. To realise our goals, we adopt an interdisciplinary, comparative, collaborative and analytical approach within a framework of the study of cultures and civilisations. Our ambition is to further promote global scholarship, create scholarly networks of learning within and outside the United Kingdom, foster academic spaces for scholars and encourage open discussions and increase academic and public engagement with the Aga Khan Centre in London as the focal point.

### Research Strategic Direction

Our research, teaching and outreach priorities are built on our strengths, developed through our linkages with the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) and other academic partnerships. Our ambition is to foster a positive work environment for scholars and staff that is founded on collegiality and teamwork, and to create opportunities for all staff to develop in their respective roles.

Staff and faculty at AKU-ISMC are passionate and dedicated and they represent diverse interests which include but are not limited to contemporary Islamic creativity, literatures, international development, history, law, religion and archaeology. We believe in promoting cultural pluralism within Muslim societies through our research, teaching and outreach and aim to generate an effective footprint both in the UK and globally by working in partnership with academic and non-academic institutions. Keys to this development include the introduction of a PhD programme which will add value and increase the critical mass within our research community, and qualitative improvements of our outreach programme including short and online courses.

## Support

While studying with us you can access support and help if you need it. We know that moving into a new environment and being away from home can be a challenge and ISMC offers a wide range of support and guidance designed to help you settle in.

If you need more professional guidance, then you can speak to your assigned faculty advisor who will give you support and offer advice on your academic and research matters. ISMC students are also entitled to access to the Westminster Counselling Service.

## Your Voice Matters

### The Student Council

The Council meets every semester and is co-chaired by the Head of Educational Programmes and an elected student representative.

We aim to give you the best experience when studying at ISMC and want you to acquire the skills needed to further your career or studies. ISMC students' voices and opinions matter to us. As an ISMC student you will have the chance to share your views through:

- Electing two student representatives to attend monthly faculty meetings on your behalf – or you might be the representative
- Online surveys issued at the end of each course

These provide opportunities for you to feed into the future direction of the programme, tell us what works and what could be improved and help to achieve the best quality of education and academic excellence we want all our students to have.







# Aga Khan Library

The library holds over 52,000 volumes on a range of topics including religion and philosophy, history, social sciences, art and architecture, literature and education. The main focus of the collection is Islamic studies in general and Ismaili, Shi'i and Qur'anic studies in particular. The library has an extensive collection of materials focused on Muslim civilisations, past and present, as well as Muslim diasporas around the world.

The library's collection includes books not only in English but also several other European (French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish), Asian (Gujarati, Sindhi, Tajik, Urdu) and Middle Eastern (Arabic, Farsi, Ottoman Turkish, Turkish) languages. The library has 3 dedicated subject librarians to provide expert guidance to help students and scholars with their research.

As part of its commitment to become one of Europe's highest quality Islamic studies libraries, the library is continuously growing its collection through informed acquisitions of newly published works; subscription to print journals, magazines and newspapers; and the expansion of its digital collection which now offers access to over 47,500 titles including journals, databases, encyclopaedias, dictionaries and other reference resources to support research and teaching. The library's collection has been shared in the World's Largest Library Catalogue (World Cat) and the National Academic and Specialist Library Catalogue (COPAC).

Beyond written texts, the library has built up a collection of documentary and feature films covering a wide range of themes and regions of the Muslim world, including Afghanistan, Central Asia, Egypt, Iran, Morocco and Tunisia, as well as Muslim diaspora communities in Europe and North America. It also has a collection of unique audio recordings of Qawwali music from the Indian subcontinent, Sufi music from Iran and Turkey, and Gnawa music from North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.

The Aga Khan Library holds approximately 1500 titles in its rare books and special collections. These items include out-of-print publications that have been acquired either through donations or purchases. There are 150 unique manuscripts from Egypt, India, Morocco and Iran on Sufism, literature, astronomy and history dating from the 18th century as well as 600 rare Ottoman Turkish books and 600 Arabic and Persian rare books.





# Student life

At the start of your first academic year at ISMC, you will participate in an orientation programme that aims to help you adjust to living in London and provide you with all the information and guidance you need. During this week, you will become familiar with the Institute and meet faculty, staff and students. You will also find out more about academic matters and the experience of living in London. In addition, you will also be introduced to London's many academic resources and some of its numerous cultural attractions. The Institute also organises social activities and tours, including excursions to places of historical interest. Recent visits have included Stonehenge, Canterbury and Bath.

## London

ISMC is located in the heart of London. This means that you are able to enjoy and experience the various cultural attractions this big city offers. Our campus is surrounded by libraries, universities, theatres, museums, restaurants, shops, parks and much more. It is also a few minutes away from the British Library and the British Museum. Your accommodation is in walking distance of the University and many educational opportunities and entertainments, minimising your travel costs.

## Our Events Programme

ISMC hosts a number of events throughout the year that are open to the public, academics, professionals and our students and alumni. Most events are streamed using online platforms so that people can watch from around the world, if they can't make it to London.

Recent events have included a three-day conference on Muslim Cultures in the Indian Ocean, a series on Contemporary Architecture in the Muslim World and lectures and seminars on subjects including 'The Politics of the Judiciary and the Legal System in Contemporary Iran' and 'Erratic Governance and its Consequences for the Citizen-State Relationship' led by Rami Khouri.

“

I have some friends who were alumni so I decided to apply and make sure that AKU-ISMC became a change agent in my life and so far the journey has been amazing!

”

**Altaf Mukhi, student**





“

My accommodation is really comfortable. There is a common room where you can meet up with your friends and there are several meeting rooms for working. My favourite space is the reading room – I love it the most! Also there are two gardens – one on the eighth floor.

”

**Gulru Asteova. AKU student**



## Accommodation

Our student residence, Victoria Hall, in the heart of King's Cross is an 11-storey building designed by award-winning London-based Stanton Williams architects. Within the building you will find stylish communal spaces, which include a gym, reading room, meeting and A/V room and a lounge area. These spaces allow for regular art classes, film nights and other activities put on for residents to give them the opportunity to meet other students and relax.

In addition, a courtyard and roof terrace, inspired by the gardens of the Maghreb (Morocco) and Andalucía (Spain) add to the design of the building and the space available to residents. The courtyard and terrace were designed by Vladimir Djurovic Landscape Architects, who are renowned for creating timeless poetic landscapes that put nature centre stage.

The accommodation's gardens are symbolic. They are a reflection of the richness and diversity of students who come from around the world, speak multiple languages and have different cultures, and of the cosmopolitan city of London; a place that allows you to experience a world-class culture, where both tradition and modernity meet.

Our apartments have light and spacious rooms, equipped with a double bed, large desk, upholstered desk chair and lounge chair. Each comes with an en-suite shower room and plenty of storage space.

Every flat consists of six or seven bedrooms and a shared kitchen, dining and living space. Many flats also have a balcony off the shared space. Wi-Fi and satellite TV are also available.

“

Studying and living in London is a great perk of ISMC. There is something for everyone and the city itself is constantly evolving. The opportunities for cultural and creative stimulation are countless.

”

**Aziz, AKU student**





# New campus in King's Cross

AKU-ISMC is housed in the Aga Khan Centre in London's King's Cross. The centre is a place for education, knowledge, cultural exchange and insight into Muslim civilisations.

The organisations that are located here work together to bridge the gap in understanding about Muslim cultures and to connect the public to global development issues.

This building is designed to represent the values of openness, dialogue and respect for different viewpoints (pluralism).

A key feature of both the Aga Khan Centre and Victoria Hall is a series of gardens that reflect – through contemporary landscape design – approaches to landscape architecture from different regions of the Muslim world. The ten gardens across the two new buildings and the public realm form a green ribbon which seeks to reflect the great diversity of cultures across the world of Islam.



## Around ISMC

Surrounding your accommodation and the academic building are the green spaces, shops, restaurants and bars of King's Cross, offering café society, cinemas, fitness facilities and events for you to enjoy.

In addition to access to our library, which is rich in rare and important resources, you are eligible to apply for membership of the British Library. Access to online materials and books is another advantage to enhance your studies and enrich your knowledge.

ISMC offers a range of further activities and socials including a cultural trip in the second year, days out to explore parts of the UK beyond London, and more local events. Our students often get to know each other well and remain friends long after completing their degree.





# After ISMC

Our graduates are a diverse group and are now following careers in journalism, teaching and business consultancy, working for organisations including the Red Cross, the BBC, Muslim Aid and the World Bank. In addition, a number of ISMC alumni now work for the Aga Khan Development Network, contributing to its development aims in projects around the world.

Some graduates choose to pursue further studies and have entered establishments such as the University of Oxford, the University of Victoria, Harvard University and Princeton University. Many go on to pursue an academic career, teaching in universities and continuing their own research into specific areas of expertise.

ISMC's MA programme is a truly global qualification, which opens doors to many different career paths. Our alumni work and study around the world, including Tunisia, Kuwait, Canada, Pakistan and the UK.

## ISMC Alumni Career Pathways

- 28% PhD/Further Studies
- 25% Private Organisations
- 16% Aga Khan Development Network
- 13% Government
- 7% Entrepreneur/Self-Employed
- 5% NGO
- 3% No Data
- 3% Other



“

As an architect, ISMC was an adventure that exposed me to an ocean of academic knowledge. My current work at AKF Syria would not have been possible without the knowledge and skills I have acquired while studying at ISMC. Living and working in Syria during the current crisis have enabled me to invest the multi-disciplinary study provided at ISMC to explore new paths and possibilities in a time of change, challenge and opportunity.

”

**Shirin, AKU student**

# Applying to ISMC

In order to be considered for admission to our MA programme, you are required to have the following:

- 1 An undergraduate degree (equivalent to a UK bachelor's degree), with an award equivalent to an upper second class honours from a university accredited or recognised by UK NARIC, preferably in the humanities or social sciences.
- 2 Evidence of English language proficiency.

A valid IELTS (Academic) result – overall band score: 6.5 (with a minimum of 5.5 in all four components). Both overall and individual component requirements must be met. Please note that we **ONLY** accept IELTS results from test centres approved by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI). IELTS for UKVI tests can be booked by going to <https://ieltsukvisas.britishcouncil.org>.

If you are not sure about the equivalency of your qualifications, you are encouraged to contact the Programme Administrator: [ismc.admissions@aku.edu](mailto:ismc.admissions@aku.edu) ISMC before making an application.



# How to Apply

## Admission Procedures

### 1. Application

Applications for admission are welcome throughout the year. However, the admission decision process is as follows:

- All applications received by 31 January 2020 will receive consideration and a decision by March 2020. Applications received after this date will be reviewed at the discretion of the Admissions Committee

To apply for the MA in Muslim Cultures, you must complete the application form online by clicking on the following link [www.aku.edu/apply-online](http://www.aku.edu/apply-online) and providing the following via courier:

1. A completed and signed application form.
2. An official copy of your undergraduate degree and attested copies of academic transcripts. (If a document is not in English a fully certified translation must be provided. The translation must include details of the translator and confirm that it is an accurate translation of the original. It must be dated and include the original signature of the translator).
3. Valid proof of English proficiency:
  1. The UK NARIC Statement of Comparability, if your last qualification was awarded in a majority English-speaking country, which can be obtained by going to the UK NARIC website ([www.naric.org.uk](http://www.naric.org.uk)).or
  2. Applicants whose last qualification was not awarded in a majority English-speaking country will be required to sit an UKVI Approved IELTS exam. IELTS for UKVI (Academic) tests can be booked by going to <https://ieltsukvisas.britishcouncil.org>.

**NOTE: The test MUST be the UKVI-approved IELTS exam. You MUST submit the IELTS results to the Registrar's Office by 29 May 2020.**

4. Two references, submitted either directly to the Registrar's Office (via email or courier) or along with the application in a sealed envelope(s) with the referee's signature across the seal. Referees must be familiar with your academic and/or professional work to date. At least one referee should be familiar with your academic work. If your referees would like to submit the reference letter via email, please download the reference form from our website, fill in your details and request your referees to send it directly to Registrar's Office at [ismc.registraroffice@aku.edu](mailto:ismc.registraroffice@aku.edu).

**Note:** you can send the above documents via email as soon as you have completed your online application but all documents must be received as hard copies and postmarked by 31 January 2020.

### 2. Selection

Admission to ISMC is based on merit and scholarly aptitude. ISMC seeks to admit students of the highest potential. Students are selected for admission without regard to their age, marital status, race, gender, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, social background or any other distinction. All shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview (candidates living outside the UK will be interviewed via Skype or video conference) and will be asked to undertake a short reading task.

During the interview you will be asked to demonstrate:

- Informed views about contemporary issues in Muslim societies.
- A strong interest in the humanities and social sciences and in the study of Muslim cultures and societies.
- An ability to articulate clearly and analyse complex intellectual concepts.

You are also assessed through several other criteria including scholastic achievement, work experience (if applicable), academic interests, referees and extra-curricular activities.

The decision of the University is final.

### 3. Further Information

For further information regarding the MA in Muslim Cultures please contact the Admissions Team: [ismc.admissions@aku.edu](mailto:ismc.admissions@aku.edu). The Registrar's Office deals with all matters related to admissions, enrolment, student records, advisory services, visas, counselling, extra-curricular activities, health, and special needs (depending on our resources, we do our utmost to accommodate).

## Tuition Fees

The annual tuition fee for the academic year 2020–2021 is £11,944. Students may pay their fees in four instalments. In cases where a student withdraws from the MA Programme, tuition for the entire semester will be charged.

Our tuition fees are available on the website [www.aku.edu/ismc/ma/Pages/scholarships.aspx](http://www.aku.edu/ismc/ma/Pages/scholarships.aspx)

## Financial Assistance

Through our Financial Assistance Programme, the University ensures that no individual is denied entry because of inability to pay tuition, living expenses and other costs.

Assistance will be provided through loans or scholarships to supplement personal resources. This is based upon the evaluation of a student's need from financial data provided. Unless otherwise stated, every student is expected to make some contribution towards fees, accommodation and subsistence.

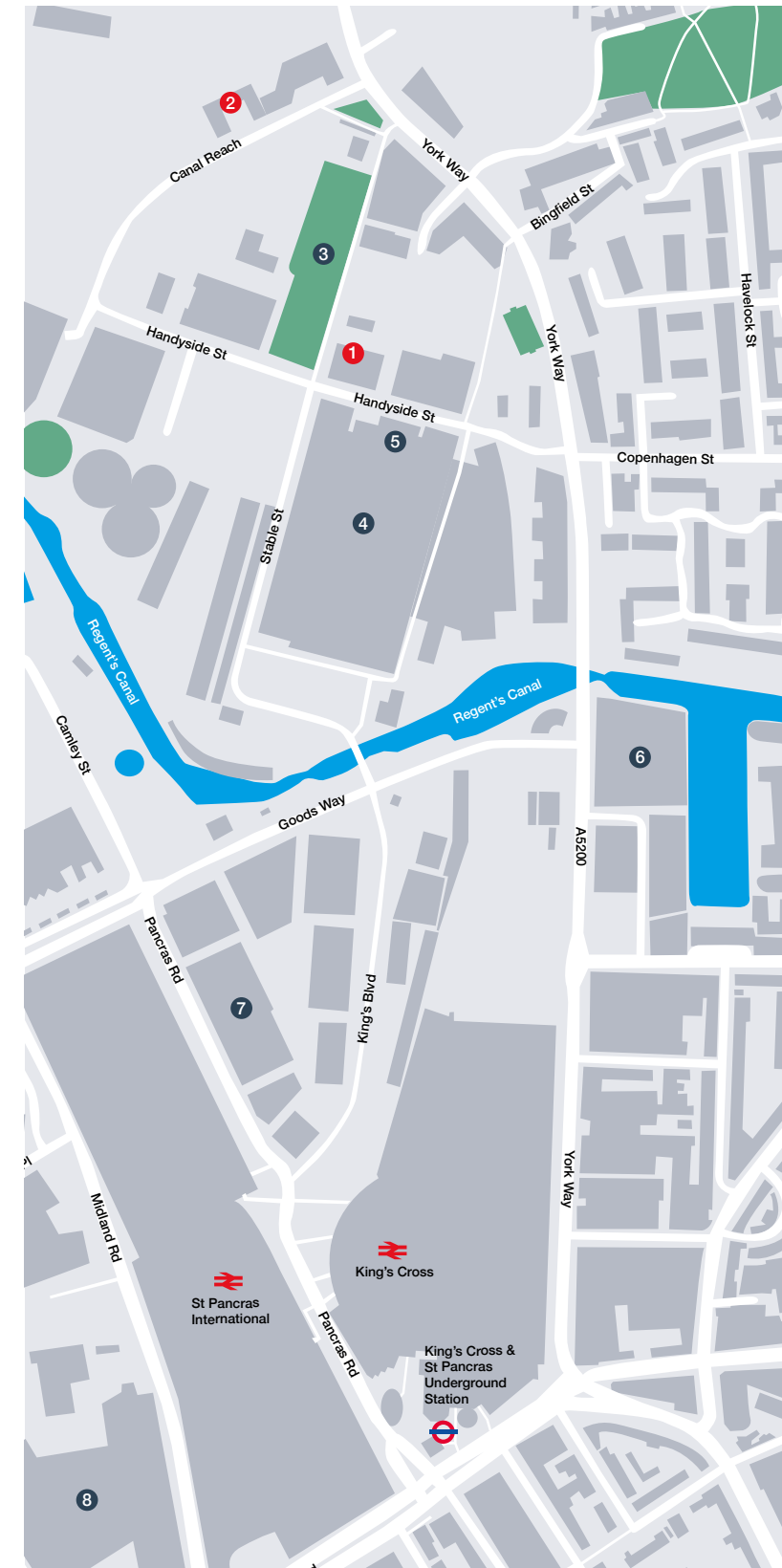
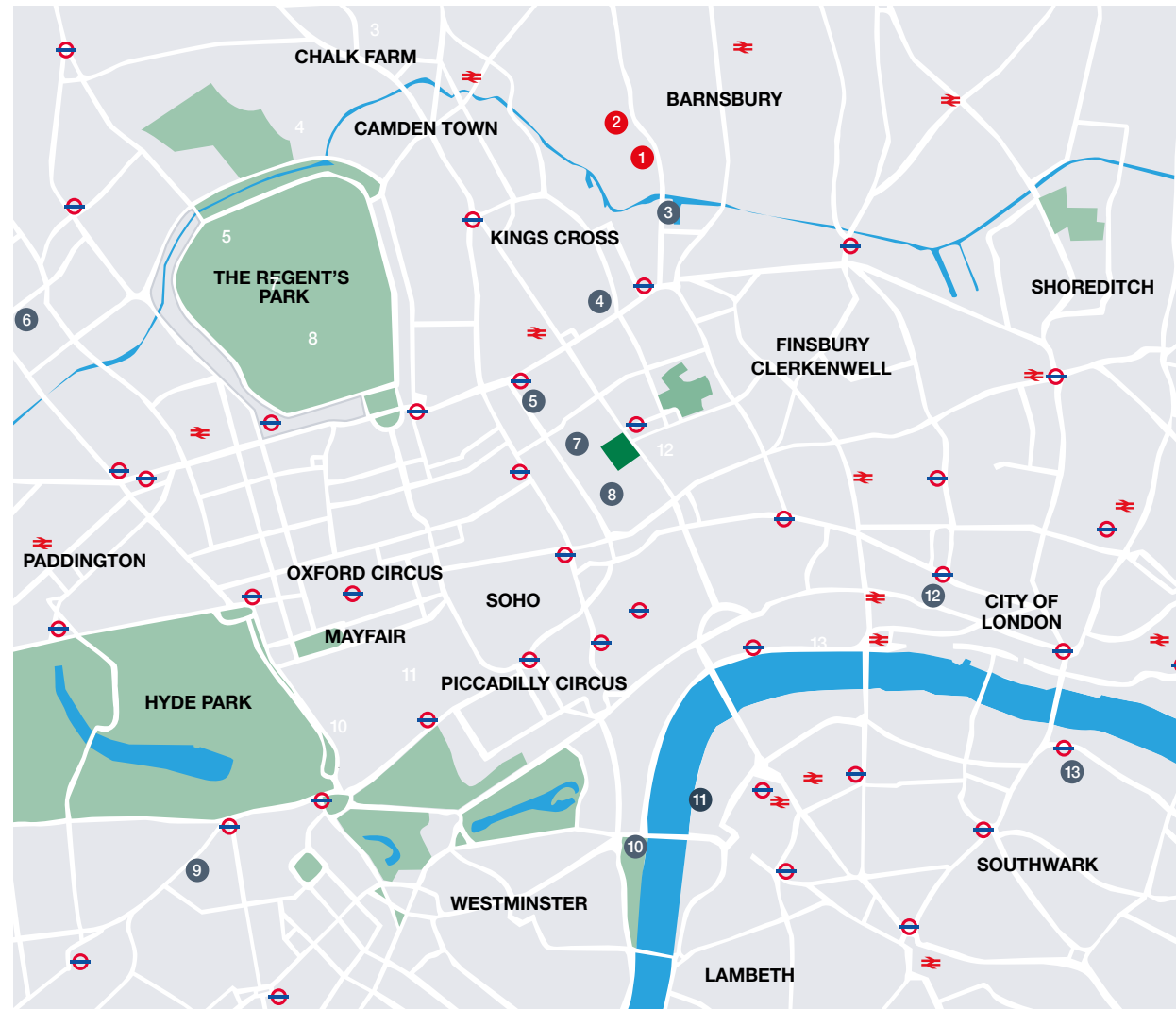




# Where to find us

## Overview map

- 1 The Aga Khan University
- 2 Victoria Hall
- 3 The Guardian Media Group
- 4 The British Library
- 5 UCL
- 6 Lord's Cricket Ground
- 7 SOAS
- 8 The British Museum
- 9 Harrods
- 10 Big Ben, Westminster
- 11 The London Eye
- 12 St Paul's Cathedral
- 13 The Shard



## Local map

- 1 The Aga Khan University
- 2 Victoria Hall
- 3 Cubitt Park
- 4 University of the Arts, Central St Martins
- 5 Platform Theatre
- 6 The Guardian Media Group
- 7 Google UK
- 8 The British Library

## Address

10 Handyside Street,  
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 [www.facebook.com/akuismclondon](https://www.facebook.com/akuismclondon)

 [@AKU\\_ISMC](https://twitter.com/AKU_ISMC)

If you are interested in receiving emails about Virtual Fairs, key dates in the application process and invitations to events – both virtual and on campus – then sign up to our email list at: [www.aku.edu/ismc/MA](http://www.aku.edu/ismc/MA)

## Virtual Fairs

Virtual fairs are an opportunity for you to speak with faculty members, admissions officers, current students and alumni. We will be holding virtual fairs throughout the year. Details will be listed at [www.aku.edu/ismc/MA](http://www.aku.edu/ismc/MA) as dates are confirmed and if you sign up to our email list, we will contact you to invite you to register.







# THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

(International) in the United Kingdom

Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations



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